GREAT GETAWAYS
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH BERLIN
{page 21}

GET OUT YOUR SLOW COOKER
FOR CARAMELIZED ONION PASTA {page 24}

UNDERCOVER
PORTMAN MARRIED IN SECRET, SAYS RING MAKER {page 20}

VANCOUVER metro®

Wednesday, February 29, 2012
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Real Housewives, B.C.-style

Canadian version of hit show will have ex-pageant queen and winery owner, among others

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

CONTRIBUTED/KHAREN HILL

▶ The Real Housewives of Vancouver, from left, Christina Kiesel, Reiko MacKenzie, Jody Claman, Mary Zilba and Ronnie Seterdahl Negus.

Get ready to go on a wild ride with the Real Housewives of Vancouver.

The upcoming Canuck version of the popular Real Housewives franchise in the U.S. — which has made stops in locations including New Jersey, Orange County and New York City — will make its debut April 4 at 9 p.m. on Slice.

Its five stars were revealed Tuesday: Free-spirited jet-setter Christina Kiesel, self-made businesswoman and fashionista Jody Claman, singer and former pageant queen Mary Zilba, adrenaline junkie Reiko MacKenzie, and winery owner and luxury-toy aficionado Ronnie Seterdahl Negus.

"My primary source of income is two divorces," Kiesel says in a promotional video where the women introduce themselves.

Zilba, a single mom in Yaletown, says she was a Canadian pop star with seven top-40 hits, while Claman, of West Vancouver, compares herself to "Martha Stewart on acid."

"They're mothers, world travellers, entrepreneurs and socialites," said the show's executive producer, Erin Haskett of Lark Productions. "They have a sense of humour and they're up for any adventure. They also have a great shoe collection."

Haskett says the show will put a spotlight on extravagant and glamorous lives "that not many of us get to live."

"We did casting in both Vancouver and Toronto," she added. "And the reason we went with Vancouver is because we could find a connected cast ... that have real relationships with one another. It also showcases the beautiful scenery that we have on the West Coast."

Local

Guilty plea in hit-and-run deaths

- Elderly couple killed in Surrey in 2008
- Family hoping driver gets more than slap on the wrist

{page 4}

Take a leap

Leap Year themed films range from romance to horror

{page 17}

Coyotes best Canucks

Vancouver falls short in 2-1 shootout loss

{page 27}

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Teachers given go-ahead for walkout

The year-long British Columbia teachers' dispute came to a head Tuesday when the union won the right to walk off the job and the government introduced legislation imposing a cooling-off period in hopes of averting any ongoing walkout.

The Labour Relations Board ruled teachers were allowed to take a three-day strike as long as parents were given two days' advance notice. The board said teachers are also allowed to take one day of job action per week after the initial strike.

Hours later, Education Minister George Abbott stood in the legislature to announce a bill that would suspend all strike and lockout activities.

He also appointed a mediator to develop a set of non-binding recommendations by the end of the school year.

The government's house leader said if no solution is found by the time school resumes in the fall, the government will impose a contract. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/METRO

▶ BCTF president Susan Lambert

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Jim Green receives the Freedom of the City award from Mayor Gregor Robertson on Sunday. The former city councillor passed away at his home on Tuesday.

Jim Green remembered as passionate activist

- Former councillor passed away Tuesday morning surrounded by family
- Legacy includes co-founding the Portland Hotel Society housing group

KENDRA WONG
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Former Vancouver city councillor Jim Green died at the age of 68 after losing his battle with lung cancer.

He passed away peacefully in his home at 6:15 a.m. Tuesday surrounded by family members, according to a statement released by Mayor Gregor Robertson's office.

"Jim's record was one of consistent and tireless activism for social justice, democracy, the arts and the shaping of a fair, inclusive and sustainable city," said Robertson.

Green was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1943 and moved to Vancouver in 1968 to avoid being drafted into the Vietnam War.

A longtime social and housing activist, Green was elected to city council under the Coalition of Progressive Electors banner in 2002. Along with then-mayor Larry Campbell and councillors Raymond Louie and Tim Stevenson, he went on to form Vision Vancouver.

In 2005, he narrowly lost to Sam Sullivan in a bid to become mayor.

On Sunday, Green was awarded the Freedom of the City award, Vancouver's highest honour, for his work with the Downtown Eastside Residents Association and his success in bringing low-income housing to the neighbourhood.

Coun. Geoff Meggs hopes Green's legacy will leave a lasting impact on the city he loved.

"He encouraged people to be creative and to struggle to achieve ideas that seemed impossible, rather than just be content with the status quo," said Meggs.

Last night the park board unanimously passed a motion to identify green space in his honour.

Details of a public memorial have not been released.

1 news

An upcoming Lady Gaga visit is spurring pressure on Harvard to confer posthumous degrees on students expelled for being gay or perceived as gay. Scan code for story.

On the web at metronews.ca

Every four years, the universe plays a game of catch-up by adding a bonus day. Leap years explained at metronews.ca/video

Man pleads guilty in fatal hit-and-run

- Couple killed almost 4 years ago
- Family hopes for a sentence equal to manslaughter or homicide

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

Varinder Badh is hoping the man guilty in the hit-and-run death of her parents in July 2008 will get "what he deserves" after he pleaded guilty Tuesday in Surrey provincial court.

Ravinder Singh Binning, 30, pleaded guilty to two counts of dangerous driving causing death and one count each of dangerous driving causing bodily harm and leaving the scene of an accident.

"This is bittersweet for us, but it's confirmation that he ran from his offences," Badh said Tuesday morning outside court. "This doesn't resolve anything. It's not going to bring our parents back."

Dilbag Badh, 61, and his wife Bakhshish, 60, were killed when their vehicle was rear-ended in the 8500-block of 128th Street in Surrey as they were returning from their daughter Rupi's engagement party. Varinder and Rupi, who was behind the wheel, were also injured.

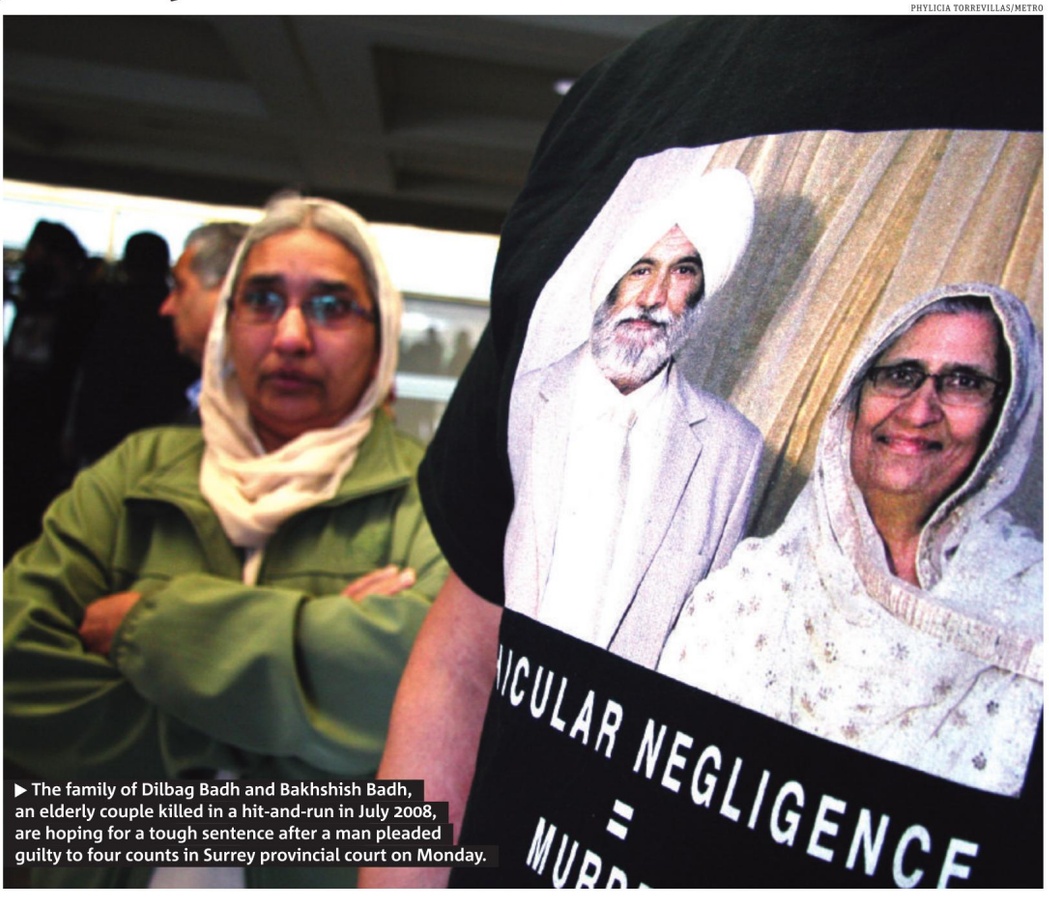
"(Binning) saw the carnage that he caused, he saw my baby sister crying and asking for help, he saw my mom lying on the pavement that day," Varinder Badh said. "He knew exactly what he did. He was a coward and he was spineless. He ran."

Varinder said she hopes that Binning's sentence will reflect the severity of his crime and send a strong message about drinking and driving.

"Nothing is going to be enough, but some sentence in a federal penitentiary will help us move on," she said.

Binning was sentenced last month on unrelated charges. He pleaded guilty to impaired driving, obstructing a police officer and trying to evade police on March 15, 2009, just eight months after the fatal hit-and-run.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO



▶ The family of Dilbag Badh and Bakhshish Badh, an elderly couple killed in a hit-and-run in July 2008, are hoping for a tough sentence after a man pleaded guilty to four counts in Surrey provincial court on Monday.

More homeless people checking into shelters

The final results of the Metro Vancouver regional district's 2011 Homelessness Count reveal more families and youth are ending up on the streets or in shelters.

While the number of homeless people in the region remains virtually unchanged from the previous count in 2008, the makeup of the 2,650 people without a permanent home is starting to change.

The biggest change, as reported last year when Metro Vancouver released its preliminary report, is that there has been a 74 per cent increase in the number of homeless people in shelters.

The migration from street to shelters can be attributed to deliberate efforts from the provincial and municipal governments to increase capacity at shelters.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO FILE

▶ A man sleeps on the street in Vancouver.

Aboriginal people remain over-represented in the count, making up 27 per cent of the homeless population despite the fact they account for just two per cent of the region's overall population.

The number of homeless youth, 397, has increased by 34 per cent since 2005.

Volunteers also counted 56 families, with children, living on the streets.

That number is the most ever recorded by the count.

The Homelessness Count is conducted every three years by the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee and is used by government, advocates and organizations as a snapshot of the region's homelessness problem.

MATT KIELTYKA

Ex-premier may pay $100K in damages

Former B.C. premier Bill Vander Zalm could be looking at a bill of around $100,000 in damages and legal fees after being convicted of defamation — and he's lucky it isn't more than that.

The man he was accused of defaming wanted Vander Zalm ordered to pay double his legal costs in the case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cop shooting case OK'd by commissioner

An investigation that cleared two Vancouver police officers of any wrongdoing in a fatal shooting has been endorsed by B.C. Police Complaint Commissioner Stan Lowe. The officers shot and killed 46-year-old Eugene Knight in 2009 after Knight refused to drop a knife he was holding to his wife's throat. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team reviewed the incident and found the officers acted properly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Failed assassin invited to legislature

A man convicted of trying to assassinate an Indian government cabinet minister 25 years ago got an invitation to the B.C. legislature last week. Jaspal Singh Atwal joined guests in the chamber for the presentation of the budget. Atwal was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the assassination plot against the minister on northern Vancouver Island in 1986. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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1392 Main St.

Pitt Meadows
19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
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Ironwood Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
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Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
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Meet John Doe: RCMP unveil 3-D model of murder victim

Oil-based clay reconstruction took 30 hours to make Police investigation has been stalled without identity of the victim, RCMP say

KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO

▶ John Doe is believed to be 25 to 45 years old. He had a distinctive overbite and a tattoo on his left chest.

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In true CSI fashion, RCMP have generated a 3-D facial reconstruction of a man found murdered on a beach near the University of B.C. in the hope that it will solve a six-year-old mystery.

The man's decomposing body was discovered on Oct. 6, 2006, in a sleeping bag on the shore of Tower Beach in the UBC Endowment Lands.

In an "out-of-the-ordinary" attempt to discover his identity, police used the remains to construct a rough 3-D model of the victim's face.

Cpl. Shawna McPherson, who created the clay model, used science and art in a two-part process. First she determined the tissue-depth markers to create the basis of the face, and then she created the structure of the eyes, nose and ears that could not be determined from the body.

The victim is described as a man 25 to 45 years old, five-foot-five to five-foot-nine and about 176 pounds. He had a pronounced overbite and severely crooked lower teeth. He also had a tattoo on the left side of his chest.

McPherson is hopeful the model will prompt tips from the public.

"I feel a great responsibility," she said. "I'm dealing with a family member of someone and often they are not even aware of the demise of the individual. I'm obligated to do my best to do justice to the reconstruction."

Anyone who recognizes the man is asked to contact Crime Stoppers.

Police thwart suicide pact

A suicide pact in Vancouver led to a scare at the Winnipeg airport on Monday.

RCMP said they were called to the Vancouver airport where a woman, 33, was in custody. Police learned she was travelling to Winnipeg to meet a man, 27, she had made contact with online.

The woman told police the man was waiting for her outside the Winnipeg airport in a vehicle with a number of hazardous chemicals.

Winnipeg police were sent to the airport to find the man.

A suspect was taken into custody at a traffic stop at about 11 p.m. Sealed chemicals found in his car were deemed safe by the Winnipeg Fire Department HAZMAT team. They were not intended to be used to harm anyone else.

Police said the woman was not from Canada but had flown into Vancouver to make her way to Winnipeg

"The woman in question was arrested under the Mental Health Act due to the fact that officers were concerned she was a danger to herself," RCMP Cpl. Sherrdean Turley said.

"She was immediately taken to the hospital to be assessed by medical professionals."

Police said no charges are pending.

ELISHA DACEY IN WINNIPEG

BILL REID'S KILLER WHALE

Missing sculpture found

Almost 17 years after it was stolen, Bill Reid's magnificent Killer Whale sculpture has been recovered.

The 113-kilogram bronze Haida sculpture disappeared in 1995 from its place along Ottawa's Rideau Canal, with no clues left as to its whereabouts. For 16 years there were no suspects and no leads.

Karen Duffek, curator of contemporary arts at the University of B.C., said Killer Whale showcases a motif seen throughout Reid's career.

"It's a very Bill Reid interpretation of the killer whale," she said.

A press conference about the sculpture's recovery will be held on Thursday in Ottawa.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON

Food-inspection cuts put Canadians at risk: Union

If budget cuts are approved, they could leave the Canadian Food Inspection Agency with fewer staff than it had before the 2008 listeriosis outbreak across Canada, a union representative warned Tuesday in Vancouver.

The CFIA inspects two per cent of all imported foods. Bob Kingston, president of the Agriculture Union, said the main purpose of the CFIA is to check for plant and animal-health problems, not food safety.

"Canadians shouldn't have to choose between funding cuts and food safety," Kingston said. "We're very bare-bones as it is. Our reliance on food imports is increasing, while our ability to ensure ports are safe could be seriously diminished."

Kingston said the cuts would be "significant" and that food-safety spending could be slashed by as much as $74 million.

The CFIA had no comment on the union's claims.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

▶ Bob Kingston, left, of the Agriculture Union and Bob Jackson of the Public Service Alliance of Canada are concerned about Canadian food safety.

Woman stabbed at doorstep

A woman is recovering in hospital after being attacked at the door of her home in Merritt Monday.

RCMP say an 18-year-old man knocked on the door and asked the woman, 40, for a ride home. When she refused, he stabbed her several times before running off, police say.

The woman was able to provide a description of the man to officers, who tracked down a suspect.

The woman — who did not know the suspect — was listed in serious but stable condition in hospital.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prince Rupert says no to pipeline

Another key North Coast city is opposed to Enbridge's Northern Gateway project.

Prince Rupert councillors on Tuesday voted unanimously against the plan to pipe Alberta oil to Kitimat for shipment to Asia. Prince Rupert, Terrace and the Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District are all on record as opposing the $5.5-billion pipeline, citing concerns about oil spills from tankers moving through the challenging waters of the north and central coasts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Robocall probe leads to fake name

‘Pierre Poutine’ made calls to Edmonton-based RackNine, the Tory-linked firm at centre of scandal

Court documents show a cellphone in the robocalls affair was registered to Pierre Poutine of Separatist Street in Joliette, Que.

Elections Canada’s chief investigator says the clearly fake name was likely used to cover the tracks of whoever was behind misleading and harassing calls to voters in Guelph, Ont., in the last federal election.

Voters in Guelph reported getting calls from a phone number with a 450 area code directing them to the wrong polling station.

Elections Canada investigator Al Mathews obtained phone records showing the number behind the Guelph calls was the same one registered to “Pierre Poutine.”

The phone records also show the number registered to Pierre Poutine twice called Edmonton-based RackNine Inc., on April 30 and May 1.

The claims, which have not been proved in court, are laid out in an Information to Obtain a Production Order filed in an Edmonton court in November.

The records also show phones associated with Guelph Conservative candidate Marty Burke and the Guelph Conservative riding association made a total of 31 calls to RackNine between March 26 and early May.

RackNine has confirmed someone used its automated dialling service to make the phoney calls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory trouble

- The market-research industry’s watchdog is launching an investigation into a Tory pollster involved in an alleged misinformation campaign against Liberal MP Irwin Cotler.
- Campaign Research was behind a phone campaign last fall in Cotler’s Montreal riding, in which constituents complained they were falsely told their MP was about to or had resigned and that a byelection was imminent.

Report slams Tory crime bill

Restricting conditional sentences is going to cost the provinces and territories almost $140 million a year, produce fewer convictions and reduce the time offenders are under government supervision, says a report from the independent parliamentary budget officer.

The 97-page study is a detailed and devastating critique of just one small aspect of the massive Conservative omnibus crime bill that is currently before the Senate.

Not only does the report predict a massive, unreported cost to provincial and territorial treasuries, it raises serious questions about the policy’s effectiveness.

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson’s office did not directly dispute the report’s cost findings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Peter Brouwer is co-founder of the Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies.

‘LEAP DAY SHOULD BE AN OFFICIAL CELEBRATION’

Today, Peter Brouwer is celebrating his 14th birthday. No, Brouwer isn’t a precocious teenager who has overachieved in life — he’s a 56-year-old man who only gets to celebrate his birthday every four years. The Vancouver resident, like some five million others across the globe, was born on Leap Day, Feb. 29.

Brouwer set up the group so that “leapers” could “share their different experiences,” and, in some cases, the frustration caused by the whimsical date.

“This day celebrates the fact that our seasons can arrive on time and in sync every year,” Brouwer says. “The irony is that leap day is, yes, a chronological anomaly, but one that makes our calendar orderly. We should celebrate this.”

ANTHONY JOHNSTON/ METRO WORLD NEWS

Teen shooting suspect’s victims random

The teenage suspect in a school shooting that killed three students and wounded two didn’t know his victims and chose them randomly, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Suspect T.J. Lane, 17, admitted firing 10 shots with a .22-calibre pistol Monday morning at Chardon High School, county prosecutor David Joyce said at a juvenile court hearing.

The hearing came hours after the death toll rose to three, and as schoolmates and townspeople grappled with the tragedy and wondered what could have set the gunman off.

Lane’s face twitched lightly while the prosecutor recounted the attack, and he sniffled and half-closed his eyes as he walked out of the room with deputies.

Lane’s custodial grandfather and two aunts joined him in court; the women reached over and lightly embraced the grandfather as the hearing began.

Judge Timothy Grendell ordered the boy, who is considered a juvenile, held for at least the next 15 days. Prosecutors have until March 1 to charge him.

The judge imposed a gag order on opposing attorneys at the prosecutor’s request and told the media not to photograph the boy’s face in court.

Shaken residents offered condolences and prayers to the families of those killed and wounded at 1,100-student high school in suburban Cleveland. All three of the dead were students, as are the two people wounded.

“This gets more tragic, the whole area is suffering, our prayers go up to God to give all strength, healing and closure,” said one of hundreds of Facebook postings on a memorial page.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ SWAT members leave Chardon High School in Ohio after a student opened fire inside the cafeteria on Monday.

Bus driver acquitted in deaths of passengers

A bus driver was acquitted Tuesday of homicide in the deaths of four passengers killed when his Toronto-bound double-decker crashed into an overpass in Upstate New York in September 2010.

A judge announced the verdict after a non-jury trial for 60-year-old John Tomaszewski of Yardville, N.J.

Tomaszewski would have faced up to four years in state prison on each of four counts of criminally negligent homicide. He sat with his head bowed and showed no reaction as Onondaga County Court Judge Anthony Aloi read the verdict.

“It’s something I’ll have to deal with the rest of my life,” a weary Tomaszewski said as he left court with his wife.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man roped with 14 raps in cattle theft and fraud

Police have laid more than a dozen charges related to cattle theft and fraud in an area east of Edmonton.

Strathcona County RCMP say they first received a complaint three years ago that a central Alberta producer was missing 138 head of purebred Angus cattle.

He alleged they had been stolen and sold.

Howard Schneider of Ardrossan, Alta., has been charged under the Criminal Code with 14 counts of fraud and theft.

He is also accused of transporting livestock out of Alberta without inspection.

Schneider, who is 57, is to appear in Sherwood Park provincial court on March 21.

There are still 84 cattle unaccounted for and the investigation continues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Child-porn investigation nets four Quebec men

Four Quebecers are facing charges in connection with a notorious international child pornography investigation involving a former daycare worker in Holland.

Quebec provincial police say they and other police forces swooped in on four suspects, who were scheduled to appear in various courtrooms across the province later Tuesday.

The four men, aged between 29 and 60, face charges of producing, possessing and distributing child pornography. Police had initially said five men were being sought but they revised that number later in the day, without explaining why.

The charges stem from a wide-ranging investigation into Robert Mikelsons, a former daycare worker and babysitter in Amsterdam.

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from $649
+ taxes & fees $109

INCLUDES airfare to San Francisco, 3 nights Nob Hill accom and 2-night cruise sailing from San Francisco to Vancouver. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom and oceanview stateroom from $29 per night.

Shanghai Air + 4 Nights 4-Star + 5-Night Cruise — from $1059 + taxes & fees $373

INCLUDES airfare to Shanghai, total 4 nights central accom, 5-night cruise sailing roundtrip from Shanghai, visiting Jeju Island, Fukuoka and Hososhima. **UPGRADE** to oceanview stateroom from $25 per night.

Vacations

London Air + 7 Nights
from $839
+ taxes & fees $569

INCLUDES central accom. **ADD** Windsor, Stonehenge and Bath tour lunch included from $123.

Paris Air + 7 Nights — from $1034 + taxes & fees $514

INCLUDES accom in Montmartre across from Sacre Coeur. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $21 per night. **ADD** Louvre evening tour from $71.

Event Vacations

Toronto Spring Break
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star
from $574
+ taxes & fees $151

INCLUDES central accom during Spring Break. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $14 per night. **ADD** CN Tower admission from $32.

San Francisco Spring Break
Air + 3 Nights — from $699 + taxes & fees $127

INCLUDES accom in Union Square during Spring Break. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $8 per night. **ADD** hop-on/off trolley pass from $22.

New Orleans Jazz Festival
Air + 4 Nights — from $839 + taxes & fees $119

INCLUDES French Quarter accom during the Jazz Festival. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $19 per night. **ADD** evening jazz cruise from $42.

USA

Anaheim
Family Special, Air + 4 Nights
from $234◊
+ taxes & fees $121

INCLUDES accom near theme parks. **ADD** 3-day *Disneyland* Resort *Park Hopper* Bonus Ticket from $199/adult, $183/child (ages 3-9). Book this package based on double occupancy from $289 per person.

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights — from $239 + taxes & fees $118

INCLUDES accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $30 per night. **ADD** Vegas Passport Ultimate Club Hopping Pass from $130.

Honolulu Air + 7 Nights — from $669 + taxes & fees $151

INCLUDES waikiki accom near the beach. **ADD** Paradise Cove Luau from $95.

Maui Family Special
Air + 7 Nights — from $829◊ + taxes & fees $148

INCLUDES 1-bedroom condo-style accom north of Ka'anapali Beach area. Price per person based on family of 4. **BOOK** package based on double occupancy from $1029 per person.

New York City Air + 3 Nights — from $904 + taxes & fees $173

INCLUDES midtown Manhattan accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $15 per night. **ADD** Empire State Building admission from $20.

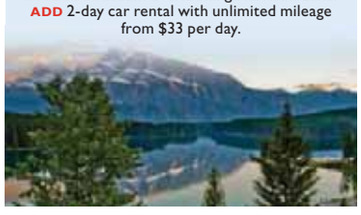
Miami Air + 7 Nights — from $1009 + taxes & fees $118

INCLUDES accom at a beachfront resort. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $35 per night. **ADD** hop-on/off tour from $54.

Canada

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights
from $129
taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom overlooking Harrison Lake. **ADD** 2-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $33 per day.



Victoria 2 Nights 4-Star — from $134 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom overlooking the Inner Harbour. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star Fairmont accom from $39. **ADD** Butchart Gardens from $26.

Banff Easter, 2 Nights — from $144 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES downtown accom over Easter. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $33 per night. **ADD** Three Sisters Peak tour from $143.

Jasper 3 Nights 4-Star — from $284 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES central accom. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $16 per night. **ADD** 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $31 per day.

Montreal Spring Break
Air + 3 Nights 4-Star — from $569 + taxes & fees $153

INCLUDES downtown accom during Spring Break. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $12 per night. **ADD** city tour from $55.

Ski Vacations

Whistler
2 Nights + Lift Pass
from $384
taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom in the Pedestrian Village and 2-day lift pass. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $74 per night.

Jasper 2 Nights + Lift Pass — from $194 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES accom near Lac Beauvert and 1-day lift pass to ski Marmot Basin.

Banff Easter Family Special
3 Nights + Lift Pass — from $249◊ taxes & fees included

INCLUDES downtown accom over Easter weekend and 2-day lift pass. Price per person based on family of 4. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $9 per night. **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from $424.

Sun Peaks 3 Nights + Lift Pass — from $444 taxes & fees included

INCLUDES ski-in/ski-out accom at the base of the Sundance chairlift and 2-day lift pass. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $37 per night.

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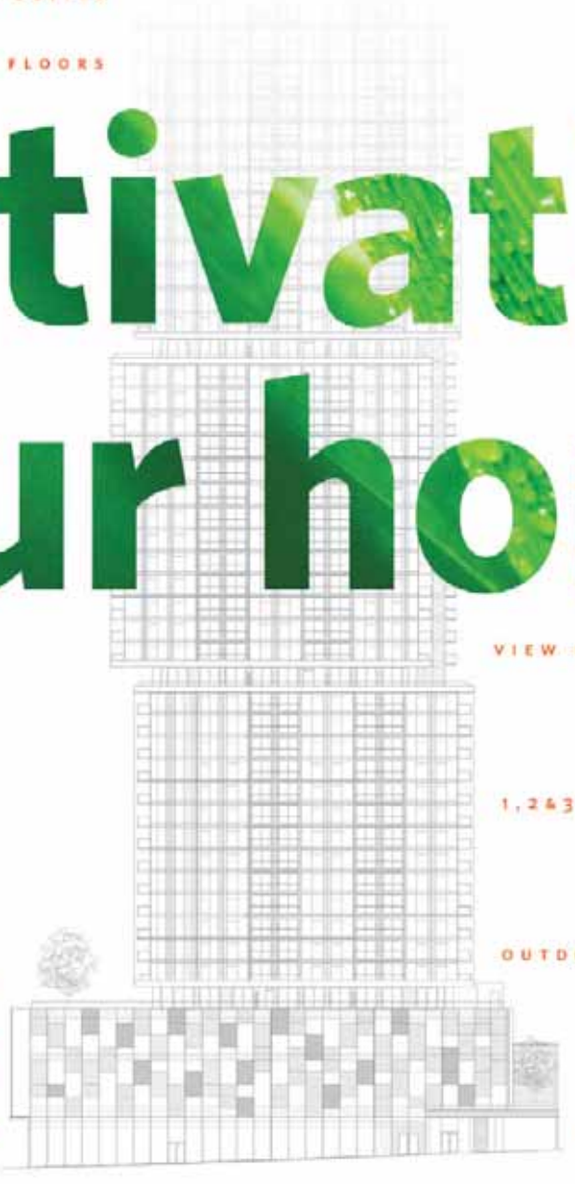

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Turkey. Towns isolated

▶ Winter has eastern Turkey in its icy grip. These two men were hard at work trying to clear their car near the border with Iraq on Tuesday after about two metres of snow cut off hundreds of towns and villages from the rest of Turkey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Let's talk Turkey: Winter's snow joke

Feathers ruffled

Artist's plan for public slaughter of chickens won't fly: Kansas town

Officials in Kansas have banned an artist from slaughtering chickens in public.

They say Amber Hansen's proposed art project to draw attention to animal slaughter amounts to animal cruelty.

Hansen planned to display coops of chickens in Lawrence, Kan. The birds were to be publicly slaughtered by a farmer and served as a meal.

"By building a relationship with the birds, the project will transform the contemporary view of chickens as mere 'livestock' to the beautiful and unique creatures they are," Hansen wrote on her project's website.

"If people choose to eat meat, it is an important process to witness and be mindful of."
AMBER HANSEN, QUOTED IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Assistant city attorney Chad Sublet said Hansen told him she intends to abide by the city's animal-cruelty ordinance.

Violating it could lead to a fine of up to $1,000 US and six months in jail.

Even keeping the chickens on private land would require her to meet city codes on animal care.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doomsday vault holds seeds for a world crisis

Chickpeas, fava beans and other seeds from a facility in strife-torn Syria are among 25,000 new samples being deposited this week in an Arctic seed vault built to protect food crops from wars and natural disasters.

The latest additions mean that the Svalbard Global Seed Vault — a master backup to the world's other seed banks — has now secured more than 740,000 samples since it opened in a remote Norwegian archipelago in 2008.

That represents an estimated three-quarters of the biological diversity of the world's major food crops, said Cary Fowler, executive director of the trust that maintains the vault with Norway's government and the Nordic Genetic Resources Centre.

Fowler noted that wars destroyed seed banks in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One in Egypt was looted during last year's uprising.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAKON MOSVOLD LARSEN/SCANPIX NORWAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This file photo shows the Svalbard Global Seed Vault near Longyearbyen in Svalbard, Norway.

Impregnable?

- The Svalbard Global Seed Vault — sometimes referred to as a doomsday vault — is designed to withstand global warming, earthquakes and even nuclear strikes.
- Samples shipped this year included wheat from a range of climates and conditions in Armenia and the Pamir mountains of Tajikistan — the first seeds from the two former Soviet republics.
- Wild crops are of particular interest because of their resilience to harsh climatic conditions.
- The U.S. seed bank is the biggest national contributor. This year it is sending 12,801 samples, including amaranth, once a nutritious grain for Aztecs and Incas.

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CANADIANS ABOARD

Disabled cruise ship gets food

Helicopters ferried food and flashlights to more than 1,000 people, including 14 Canadians, stuck aboard a disabled cruise ship.

The Costa Allegra was being towed to the Seychelles Islands on Tuesday through waters prowled by pirates.

Officials said the Costa Allegra could reach the Seychelles island of Mahe by late Wednesday or early Thursday.

The ship lost power Monday after a fire in its generator room knocked out the engines, lights and air conditioning.

The drama comes six weeks after sister ship Costa Concordia hit a reef and capsized off Italy, killing 25 people and leaving seven missing and presumed dead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9-11 remains sent to landfill: Pentagon

The Pentagon said Tuesday partial, incinerated remains of some Sept. 11 victims that could not be identified were sent to a landfill.

The remains were of some of those killed when a hijacked plane struck the Pentagon, killing 184, and another crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, killing 40, in the 2001 attacks.

The Pentagon released the report by an independent committee that was asked to examine practices at the military's mortuary at Dover, Delaware.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria's envoy makes fast exit

He denounces a planned UN resolution as 'malicious and prejudiced' Then he storms out of meeting room

First, he delivered a fiery speech that accused the United Nations Human Rights Council of promoting terrorism in Syria and prolonging the nation's bloodshed.

Then he stormed out of the emergency UN meeting in Geneva.

All of which earned Fayssal al-Hamwi, Syria's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, a tongue-lashing.

The United States said he demonstrated the "delusional" nature of President Bashar Assad's regime.

"I think it's a reflection to some extent of what's going on with the Assad regime itself, holding a referendum that is farcical and a mockery of democratic processes when they're in the midst of a humanitarian crisis of their own creation," said Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, the U.S. representative to the 47-nation council.

"Anybody who heard the Syrian ambassador should be aware that his comments were borderline out of touch with reality."

EILEEN CHAMBERLAIN DONAHOE, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

The global body now says more than 7,500 people have died in Syria's turmoil since March. Reports say 100 civilians are dying daily.

Al-Hamwi told delegates: "We are convinced the real aim behind holding this session today is to cover up for the violence and murder perpetrated by the armed groups against innocent civilians."

He added: "We are not pretending that the human rights situation in Syria is perfect."

Then he said his delegation would withdraw from "this sterile discussion."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RODRIGO ABD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The victims can only marvel at the debris. Their house in Sarmin, Syria, was destroyed in clashes between the Free Syrian Army and President Bashar Assad's forces on Tuesday. Residents say at least 14 people were killed.

Tunisia to offer Assad asylum?

Tunisia's president says he's ready to offer asylum to Syria's leader, Bashar Assad, in a bid to end the Syrian bloodshed.

President Moncef Marzouki told a local paper the offer would also extend to Assad's associates.

Marzouki's interview was set to appear Wednesday in the French-language daily La Presse.

Tunisia would be a surprising choice for Assad's retirement as it was the first Arab nation to topple a longtime autocrat.

Its former president fled the country a year ago amid nationwide protests.

Meanwhile, Syrian rebels smuggled a wounded British journalist out of the besieged Syrian city of Homs and whisked him to safety in Lebanon Tuesday, activist groups said.

Thirteen Syrians who were trying to help rescue Paul Conroy and other trapped western reporters were killed in the operation, according to one group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking the lead

HASSENE DRIDI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Marzouki

- Tunisia was the first country to recall its ambassador from Syria in protest of the violence.
- It also hosted an international conference Friday that called for an immediate ceasefire and the delivery of humanitarian aid to the country.

BREAKING NEWS

U.S. REAL ESTATE HAS BOTTOMED OUT!

7 Deadliest Mistakes All Canadians Make When Buying U.S. Real Estate

Fellow Canadians - a new video series has just recently been released which reveals the 7 costly mistakes that ALL Canadians make when buying U.S. real estate, and a 23 step system that can help you prevent these common mistakes in order to protect your investment.

This video series clearly shows how a typical Canadian loses an average of $30,000 when buying U.S. real estate. The fact of the matter is that the U.S. is a foreign country with an entirely different tax system that the CRA frowns upon – worse yet – with regulations written against foreigners, such as the famous "world estate tax".

Don't dare google "U.S. Real Estate" until you watch and learn the proven methods.

This video series exposes the 7 deadliest mistakes that cost Canadians tens of thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes are entirely preventable. In answer to these issues, Canada's only active U.S. real estate expert - Steve Martel - has prepared a free video series entitled "Buying U.S. Real Estate The Proven Way".

To gain instant access to this video series, visit www.CanadiansInvade.net

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CONTRIBUTED

▶ Puppe, left, Budi and Jahe, at the Toronto Zoo. Jahe, now in a Memphis zoo, recognized photos of her kin.

GOING APE OVER IPADS

When the tire swing or the rope hammock no longer entice, what's a bored orangutan to do? Reach for the iPad, because there's an app for that ape.

The Toronto Zoo is at "the top of the list" to get a donated iPad from Orangutan Outreach, a conservation group spearheading an Apps for Apes program.

Founder and director Richard Zimmerman said he has been watching the Milwaukee Zoo's iPad program involving its three orangutans, which started last year, and is extending Apps for Apes to other zoos.

In Milwaukee, a keeper holds an iPad through a mesh screen while the primates have fun manipulating a painting app with their fingers.

"Orangutans like to paint and they're capable of using this digital device," Zimmerman said, adding, "there's no paint to eat."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Belief in global warming rises

Poll shows Americans drawing connection between weather conditions and climate change, says Muhlenberg College director Chris Borick

Americans' belief in global warming is on the rise, along with temperatures and surprising weather changes, according to a new university poll.

The survey by the University of Michigan and Muhlenberg College says 62 per cent of those asked last December think the Earth is getting warmer. That's up from 55 per cent in the spring of that year and 58 per cent in December 2010. It is the highest proportion in two years.

Nearly half the people who say they believe in global warming base that on personal observations of the weather. Climate researchers say that's reaching the correct conclusion for reasons that aren't quite right.

When asked an open-ended question about why they thought the Earth was warming, one-quarter pointed to temperatures they experience and another quarter cited other weather changes. One in seven mentioned melting glaciers and polar sea ice, and one in eight noted media coverage. Only eight per cent mentioned scientific research.

"It seems to be driven by an increased connection that the public is making between what they see in terms of weather conditions and climate change" said Chris Borick, the director of Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

Climate scientists say daily local weather is not evidence of climate change. But they also say long-term climate change is so dramatic that people recognize and experience it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ People stroll in the South Chagrin Reservation Metropark on a sunny and mild afternoon in Bentleyville, Ohio, in February.

See to believe

- The poll was conducted from Dec. 4 to Dec. 21, after the U.S. experienced a record $14 billion US in weather disasters in 2011, including killer tornadoes, an unusual northeastern hurricane, a devastating southwestern drought and floods along major rivers.
- At the same time, this poll was done before the official start of winter, so people were not yet affected by what has been a mild season for many regions.

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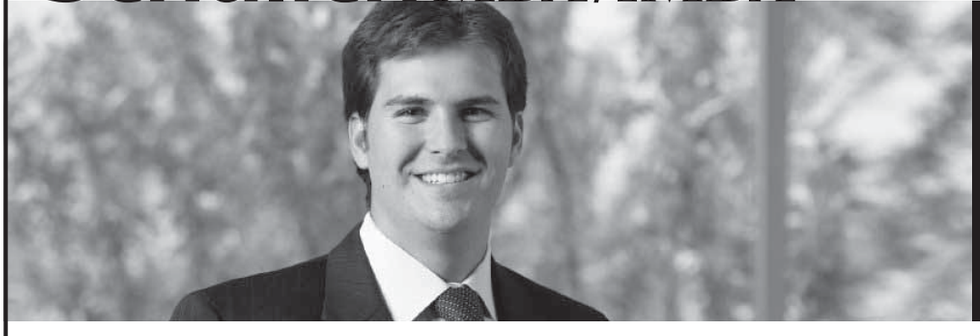

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Picture. Screen

▶ A man walks past an advertisement for Apple's iPad 2 on Tuesday in Shanghai.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple invite continues tablet tease

Apple is inviting reporters to an event next Wednesday in San Francisco. An image on the invite showing part of an iPad screen suggests the company will announce a new model. Unconfirmed reports have speculated a sharper screen and faster cellular broadband options could be part of the next model.

Google policy might violate EU data rules

Commission also examining whether Google uses its dominance to stop others from entering the EU market

Google's new privacy policy appears to violate the European Union's data-protection rules, France's regulator said Tuesday, just two days before the new guidelines are set to come into force.

Google announced its new privacy policy with much fanfare last month. The rules, which are set to come into force on Thursday, regulate how the web giant uses the enormous amounts of personal data it collects through its search engine, email and other services.

However, the EU's data-protection authorities are concerned about the privacy effects of the policy and earlier this month asked French regulator CNIL to investigate them.

"Our preliminary analysis shows that Google's new policy does not meet the requirements of the European Directive on Data Protection," CNIL said in a letter to Google chief executive Larry Page.

The agency said Google's explanation of how it will use the data was too vague and difficult to understand "even for trained privacy professionals"

The new policy makes it easier for Google to combine the data of one person using different services such as the search engine, YouTube or Gmail if she is logged into her Google account. That allows Google to create a broader profile of that user and target advertising based on that person's interests and search history more accurately.

Google argues that combining the data into one profile also makes search results more relevant and allows a user to cross-navigate between different services more easily. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft to preview Windows 8 software

MARK RIGHTMIRE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Windows president Steven Sinofsky

Since Microsoft released its Windows operating system in 1985, most of the sequels have been variations on the same theme. Not that it mattered much. Regardless of the software's quality, Microsoft managed to remain at the centre of the personal computing universe.

The stakes are much different as the company puts the finishing touches on Windows 8 — perhaps the most important piece of software the company has designed since co-founder Bill Gates won the contract to build the first operating system for IBM's personal computer in the early 1980s.

A beta version of the revamped operating system will be unveiled Wednesday in Barcelona, nudging Windows 8 a step closer to its anticipated mass market release in the fall. It's the most extensive look at Windows 8 since Microsoft released an early version of the system to developers five months ago.

If Windows 8 is a hit, it could also help lift the fortunes of struggling PC makers like Dell and Hewlett-Packard. In addition to giving businesses and consumers a reason to consider new PC purchases, Windows 8 is expected to spawn a new breed of hybrid machines that will be part computer tablet, part laptop computer.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. TUESDAY

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Gold $1,788.40 US (+ $13.50 US)

Montreal gas prices spike by 14 cents

Energy industry experts are warning that the 14-cent-per-litre spike in gasoline prices in Montreal on Tuesday is just a taste of the high fuel costs Canadians can expect in the coming months.

The average pump price in Montreal was $1.44 a litre, compared with $1.30 a day earlier, according to price-tracking website Gasbuddy.com. By contrast, the Canadian average only rose a penny to $1.28.

"I'm expecting to see the national average breaking all-time highs. We'll likely see $1.45 to $1.50 this summer," said Jason Toews, co-founder of Gasbuddy.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Job prospects remain weak: Report

The Conference Board's forward-looking indicator on labour markets suggests job growth will continue to be modest in the upcoming months.

The think tank's help-wanted index for February shows a mixed climate for job seekers. Prospects appear stronger in the West, but weak throughout much of Ontario.

The index suggests next week's employment report from Statistics Canada for February will continue to post weak results.

Canada's jobs market has been largely flat since the summer. January saw only a pick up of 2,300 jobs, well below the 20,000 needed to keep up with population growth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IF YOU HAVE EVER QUESTIONED THE TERM 'DOWNWARD DOG,' READ ON

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

It's generally thought that things beginning in "yog" are good for you.

Like "yogurt" and "yoga" and "Yogi" (Berra, Bear, etc.).

But, it turns out, that's not always the case.

Yoga, for example, lost one of its shining stars recently as yogi John Friend, the founder of Anusara yoga — a kind of feel-good, hang-loose variation on the theme — resigned amid accusations that he felt too good and hung too loose.

Friend, the accusations go, wanted to be more than friends with an unusually large number of his female adherents, ran Wiccan covens featuring a variety of sexual activities, kept employees busy scoring marijuana on his behalf, and at one point even froze his employees' pensions.

"They may have to build a new wing onto The Bad Yogi Hall of Shame to shoehorn John Friend in with fellow philanderers ..."

So much for Mr. Nice Yogi.

The yoga community has been rocked and shocked by this scandal, and more than 50 Anusara teachers have rolled up their mats and left the ashram. But as a number of astute commentators have noticed, this is hardly the first time some guru has stepped out of line. They may have to build a new wing onto The Bad Yogi Hall of Shame to shoehorn John Friend in with fellow philanderers Swami Muktananda, Swami Satchidananda, Swami Amrit Desai and Swami Rama.

The problem may be that yoga (unlike yogurt) is inherently sexy. Hatha yoga, the form most practised around the world, started as a branch of Tantra, which is all about seeking spiritual bliss through sex. The movement to make it safe for a general audience didn't really take hold until the 20th century, so the sex is just under the surface, which should be obvious whenever you find yourself in the "downward dog" pose.

According to a usually reliable source — the New York Times — there is scientific evidence that yoga is inherently sexy. It causes an increase in testosterone (the guru sex hormone), sexy brain waves, and yoga's fast-breathing practice can increase blood flow through the genitals. Like Viagra.

At Rutgers University, researchers have found that yoga can be an effective form of mental masturbation, leading to spontaneous orgasm, or "thinking off." Don't try that with yogurt. (It doesn't work.)

So the real surprise is that there aren't more yoga-based shenanigans. The real surprise, considering the evidence, is that anyone is surprised. Add the power imbalance that often goes with these guru-groupie situations, and you have a surefire recipe for scandal.

Of course, millions of people who practise yoga and eat yogurt aren't looking for kicks. They just want improved flexibility and digestion.

Sex with the guru improves neither.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Metropolitan Panel
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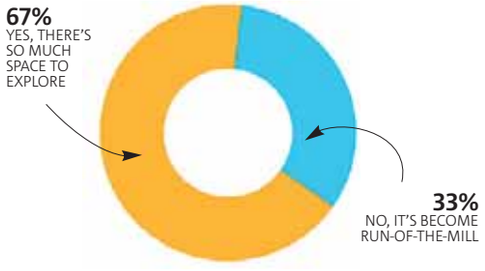
Are you excited by the finding of new planets?



Local tweets

- **@D6MERIT:** "@DJFC: @D6MERIT @whitecapsfc @pinkshirtday we wear pink shirts all the time for @TheChristie, can we get a RT. Great cause."
- **@SaoriiseGreen:** omgg. the real housewives of Vancouver is a complete embarrassment to Canada.
- **@alexandre_lacas:** hahahahaha The're gonna have a real real housewives of Vancouver Canada has been officialy trashed #Real Housewives of Vancouver
- **@simrit_:** Real housewives of Vancouver looks like its going to be disappointing, Miami and Beverly hills all over again...#realhousewives #vancouver
- **@SunnyLenarduzzi:** "My main source of income...2 divorces." Wow. There are no words. Introducing the Real Housewives of #Vancouver ow.ly/9ltoy #RHOV
- **@Hayden_Ross:** oh god here we go.... "Real Housewives of Vancouver identities revealed shar.es/geCKJ
- **@stopbcartscuts:** The draft dodgers made such a significant contribution to Vancouver arts, politics, so many fields. Jim Green one of the best. #vanpoli

Daily Zoom

LONDON NEWS PICTURES/REX FEATURES

London unoccupied

Occupy London camp removed

LONDON. A time for contemplation and reflection? A supporter of anti-capitalist movement Occupy London meditated in the remains of a partially dismantled tent in London on Tuesday morning. After being camped outside St. Paul's Cathedral for more than four months, demonstrators were evicted by police and bailiffs. MWN

"The relationships forged during these strange and beautiful four and a half months still have much further to run. This is only the beginning."
STATEMENT FROM WEBSITE OF OCCUPY THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Britain's protests

- **November 2010:** 55,000 students demonstrate over tuition fees.
- **December 2010:** Protesters target state buildings and damage a car carrying Prince Charles.
- **August 2011:** More than 2,800 people are arrested after a protest over a fatal shooting by police prompted rioting.
- **November 2011:** Occupy movement set up.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Occupy London activist

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Films that take a leap

It's not every year we get an extra day to play Some filmmakers have based their movies around the magical Feb. 29 — telling leap year tales of love, ennui and ghosts

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Amy Adams stars opposite Matthew Goode in Leap Year, a rom-com about an American who travels to Ireland to propose to her longtime beau on Feb. 29.

You may not be aware of this, but we're living in a bissextile year. What does that mean? Well, it means today's date, Feb. 29, didn't exist last year. Or the year before that. In fact, you have to flip the calendar back to 2008 to find the last time February had 29 days.

But how to celebrate the year's extra day? If you are Ja Rule, Antonio Sabato Jr., or Tony Robbins, all leap year babies, you could throw yourself a birthday party, but if not, why not rent or download (legally of course!) a movie about those rare years with 366 days?

The Amy Adams rom-com Leap Year is based on an old Irish legend that says that women can propose to men, but only on Feb. 29.

She travels to Ireland to ask for her longtime beau's hand, only to get sidetracked in Wales by a tall handsome stranger played by Matthew Goode.

You can likely guess the rest (and if you can't you need to go to romantic comedy school and learn how this works) but the proposal Amy finally gives is much different than the one she originally intended.

Also on the romantic side is The Leap Years, a Chinese film about a woman who meets her lover once every four years on, you guessed it, Feb. 29. The main character, Li-Ann, is played by three actresses. Beatrice Chia handles all the narration, Wong Li-lin ushers her through her 20s with Joan Chen playing her in middle age.

Rounding out our look at leap year movies are two films with nothing whatsoever to do with romance.

The strange and disturbing Ano Bisiesto was the first Mexican film to win the Camera D'Or award at the Cannes Film Festival. The story of a lonely woman (Monica del Carmen) who marks off the days on a calendar as she reveals her true self to her lover was called "a blind leap into the void of art-house cinema du extreme, South of the Border division" by Time Out but is also a deeply felt psychological drama.

On the scary side is The Curse of February 29, a Korean horror film about a blood stained bus ticket, a vengeful ghost and a leap year murder.

Leap years at the movies offers something for everyone — love, ennui and even ghosts!

2 scene

Scene in brief

Urkel, the Empress of Soul and one of the Green Bay Packers are waltzing onto Dancing With the Stars. Family Matters actor Jaleel White, singer Gladys Knight and National Football League player Donald Driver will be among the 12 celebrity contestants on the next season of the ABC dancing competition. Other famous faces participating in the 14th edition include The View co-host Sherri Shepherd, singer-songwriter Gavin DeGraw, Little House on the Prairie actress Melissa Gilbert and Disney Channel star Roshon Fegan. The new cast, which also includes tennis player Martina Navratilova, Melrose Place actor Jack Wagner, telenovela star William Levy, operatic singer Katherine Jenkins and Extra co-host Maria Menounos, was announced Tuesday on Good Morning America. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meryl Streep donates $10K to school on behalf of hometown star Viola Davis

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Talking points

Hudson could testify at murder trial

CRIME. Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson is on the witness list for the upcoming trial of a man accused of killing her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew.

The Chicago Tribune reports, however, that prosecutors haven't yet disclosed whether Hudson will actually testify at William Balfour's trial, which is slated to begin April 9.

Balfour was the estranged husband of Hudson's sister, Julia. Hudson's mother and brother were found dead in the family's home on Chicago's South Side in 2008. Her nephew's body was found days later in a vehicle on the city's West Side. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entering Rwanda's Fray

Band's new album inspired by visit to war-torn nation ◐ Scars & Stories tackles big issues

JOHN CARUCC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Issac Slade, left, and Joe King of The Fray pose for a photo in New York. The band's third album, Scars & Stories, was released earlier this month.

The Fray's new song Heartbeat seems to be about reviving a broken relationship, with lyrics like "I wanna kiss your scars tonight, and baby, you gotta try, you gotta let me in."

But the inspiration for the rock tune has little to do with a failed romance. Instead, it comes from one of the worst tragedies in recent memory — the genocide in Rwanda nearly two decades ago.

Lead singer and writer Isaac Slade was visiting the Rwandan capital of Kigali last year when he found himself standing on the site where more than 250,000 victims of the country's 1994 genocide were buried. Then he had an epiphany.

"(I was) at this gathering with a bunch of local (people) and ex-pats, all standing in a circle holding hands, just kind of thinking and talking about Rwanda. This chick was standing next to me and I couldn't tell if it was her heartbeat or mine, but it felt like the country was getting its pulse back to it," Slade remembered.

"I busted out my phone and wrote that pre-chorus of this song called Heartbeat, and wrote some of the chorus on the way back," he said.

The vocalist also spent time with President Paul Kagame after a friend arranged a meeting. The visit took place near Kagame's birthday, so Slade performed a solo version of The Frays biggest hit so far, How to Save A Life, in the presidential palace. Slade bonded with Kagame and the two men spoke of family and the darkest period in Rwandan history, when extremist Hutus killed more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the country. Kagame led Rwandan Tutsi soldiers at the time, and has been credited with ending the genocide.

After Slade talked to Kagame, he said he understood the purpose of Heartbeat.

"One of the few sayings that the Jewish faith and the Muslim faith share (is) that if you kill one man, you're guilty of killing all of us," Slade said. "So I wanted to flip that to the opposite. If you serve one man, if you do step off your pedestal or whatever like Kagame did and risk his life and led those people out of exodus, you're essentially loving the entire world."

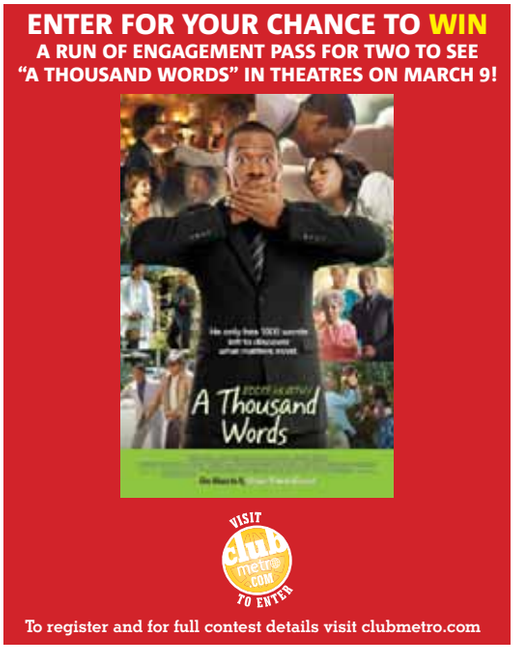
The song is on the band's third album, Scars & Stories, which was released earlier this month. Producer Brendan O'Brien, known for his work with Pearl Jam, Bruce Springsteen and Rage Against the Machine, certainly helped shape the song and the rest of the album, said Joe King, the band's guitarist and co-vocalist.

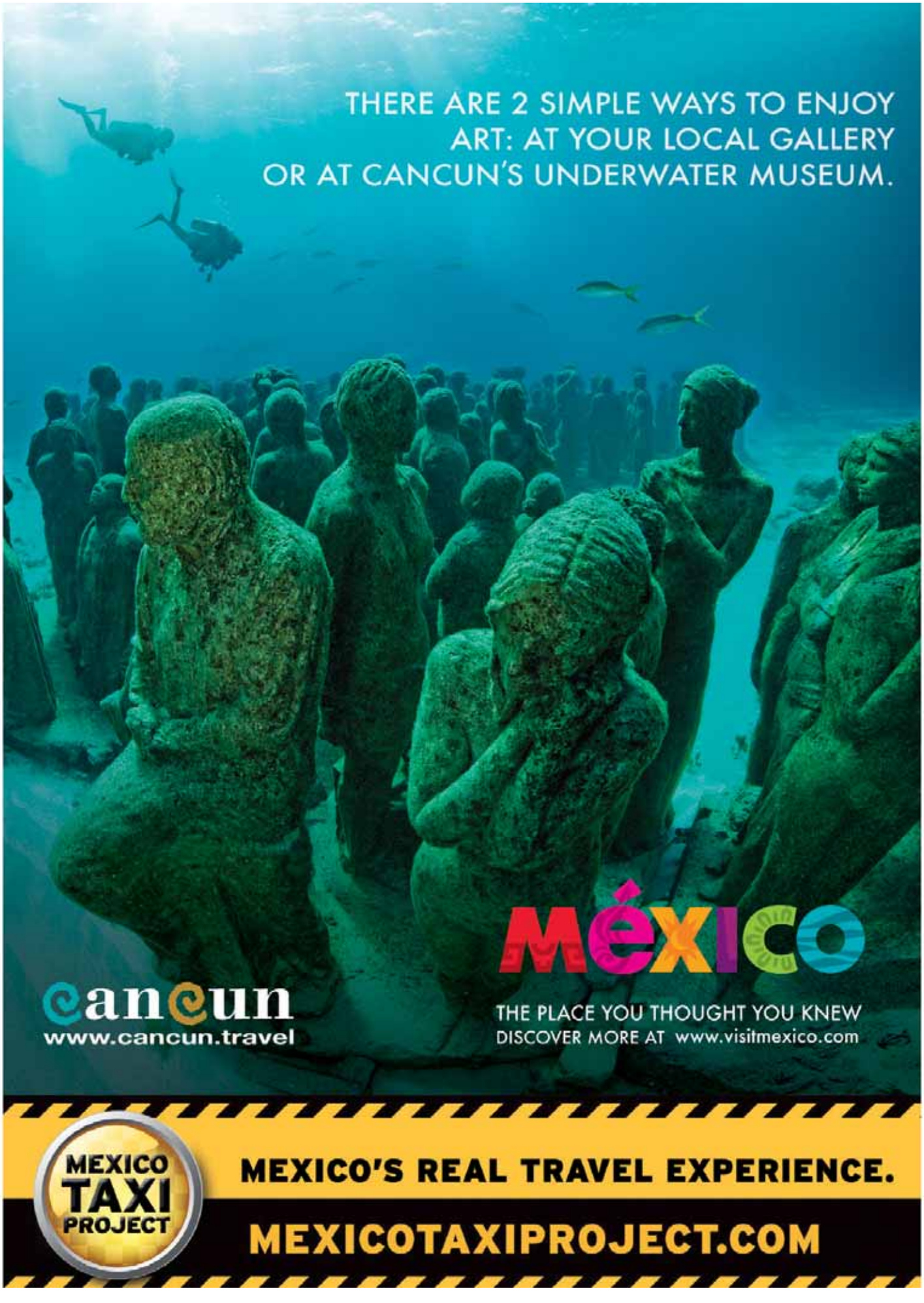
"He pinned us on both sides, and that's what we needed," King said.

Album

Issac Slade said he feels the experiences that led up to this album left them, as a band, and as individuals, more mature.

Quote: "Every album so far has been a snapshot of who we are and where we are. Here we are."

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Portman married in secret to Millepied

Their jeweller confirms the pair had wedding bands made following Oscars

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

MONICA WEYMOUTH
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Natalie Portman is married — and didn't invite us

After showing up to the Academy Awards sporting suspicious rings, it seems that Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied did, indeed, get married without telling us.

Jeweler Jamie Wolf confirms that the couple — who met on the set of Black Swan and have a son together — created the wedding bands.

"I designed the rings worn by Benjamin Millepied and Natalie Portman," Wolf told UsMagazine.com.

"I designed the rings worn by Benjamin Millepied and Natalie Portman. They were made with recycled platinum and conflict-free diamonds."
JEWELER JAMIE WOLF

"They were made with recycled platinum and conflict-free diamonds."

Their eco-friendly jeweler leaked the news?

This, friends, is what we call a rich people problem.

Becks still after more children

David and Victoria Beckham may be adjusting to having a fourth child with 7-month-old daughter Harper, but that doesn't mean they're necessarily done procreating.

"We might have one more or two more, you never know," David says, according to Hollyscoop. "We're not thinking about it yet, but if it happens, great. We're enjoying the kids as it is. It's always a thought." METRO

Talking points

Paltrow pegs Blue Ivy Carter as a performer

GWYNETH IS CLEARLY A PSYCHIC While Blue Ivy Carter is just seven weeks old, some of the adults in her life already have a career picked out for her.

"She is going to be an entertainer," Gwyneth Paltrow, who is pals with parents Beyoncé Knowles and Jay-Z, tells Hollywood Life. "She just has this glow around her like her mother. She's stunning. She has the most beautiful eyes." METRO

Sean Young booted from Governor's Ball

RELIVING PAST GLORIES. Blade Runner and Ace Ventura: Pet Detective star Sean Young was arrested after trying to sneak into the post-Oscars Governor's Ball Sunday night, according to TMZ.

The actress, who recently appeared on Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew, made it into the party initially and hobnobbed with the likes of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie before being asked to leave, as she didn't have a ticket for the event. Sources say she then tried to get back into the party, leading to an altercation with security personnel. Young was booked on a misdemeanor battery charge. METRO

Uma Thurman pregnant again

ADDING TO THE FLOCK Uma Thurman is expecting a baby with financier Arpad Busson, her rep confirms to People magazine.

And while the actress wasn't necessarily ready to talk about her pregnancy, her friends were more than happy to.

"Yes, Uma is pregnant," a Thurman pal tells Life & Style.

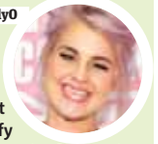
"She hasn't announced it yet, but a lot of her friends were asking her, because they could tell the difference when they saw her at New York Fashion Week. She's usually so skinny, but now she has the cutest little bump and a glow about her."

Thurman also has two children with ex-husband Ethan Hawke. METRO

Celebrity tweets

"Turns out I married a man who knows every word to every Neil Diamond song ever. This wasn't mentioned in the courting process."
@missjudygreer

"You'll chuckle at this. I just took a shower and I actually did at one point drop the soap."
@RealMattLucas



"random question what can i do to get rid of puffy eyes from crying? there is no way i am putting hemroid cream on my eyes!"
@MissKellyO

"Still getting dressed for Oscars."
@SteveMartinToGo

▶ Berlin Cathedral

4 great getaways

1 Berlin, Germany

Always on affordable travel lists, Berlin remains high because, this summer, the new Berlin Bradenburg Airport opens — and you may be able to find promotional flights there. After arriving, you'll find yourself in the East Village of New York, circa 1970s: the punk rockers are actually punk rockers, and the art is bold. By day, take in the history—you can walk along the Berlin Wall, or visit the Berlin Cathedral. By night, relive your techno glory days at places like Berghain/Panorama Bar, one of the best in all of Europe.

2 Nashville, Tenn.

Downtown Nashville is walkable (saving you transportation costs) and hotels are usually under $100 a night. That means you'll have more money to spend on entertainment. This is the place to see the big names (like Willie Nelson) or small ones, at venues such as Mercy Lounge (on hopping Cannery Row). There's usually a festival going on, too.

▶ Nashville

3 Paris, France

You already want to go. So go in August. The entire place clears out, and you'll find cheaper hotels, empty cafes and less queueing at museums. According to Woody Allen, walking around at midnight is fun, too.

▶ Paris

4 Costa Rica

Also known as "the holiday Americans take when they cannot afford Hawaii or the Bahamas," Costa Rica offers adventure without risk. Most locals speak English. It's close to the States. And everything from renting a car to booking a hotel costs far less than neighbouring islands. Yet you still come home with a tan. Check out visitcostarica.com to start planning today.

SAM CASTONE, METRO WORLD NEWS

3 life

Travel in brief

Organizers of a weeklong celebration of Ontario's burgeoning craft beer industry are hoping to attract visitors from outside the province to partake in the suds-soaked events. Hosted by 29 breweries, the third annual Ontario Craft Beer Week is planning hundreds of beer-themed activities across Ontario. The festival launches on Father's Day, running from June 17 to 23.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Don't be crooked, b'y: Dictionaries, phone app translate Newfoundland lingo

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▶ The founders

Young? Broke?

If so, a new travel website caters to you Off Track Planet is meant to connect "independent youth"

CONTRIBUTED

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Ever wish you knew which countries are best for cheap volunteer gigs? Or, what is Bunny Chow?

Freddie Pikovsky and his small, but well-travelled team of three other full-time staffers, have set out to answer those questions with the launch of Off Track Planet (OTP), a blog and magazine aimed at young explorers on a budget.

The Brooklyn-based publication is now in its fourth print issue, but you can enjoy it online, too. Metro caught up with Pikovsky, co-founder and CEO of OTP, to hear about the trip that inspired it all, why it's easier to hire younger writers and what it means to be young, sexy and broke.

How was OTP born?

Four years ago, I took my first trip abroad. I started in Israel and made my way through Western Europe to Greece, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. It was life-changing to see how other people lived their lives. I came home to L.A. and I was on a mission to inspire other people to travel the world because I felt it would create positive change to see life through others.

I realized there was nothing connecting independent youth travel to an audience, so I decided to come up with something edgy and truthful. I moved to NYC, where I spent my first year living and working at a youth hostel in Brooklyn, then began to develop a team.

What is the "young, sexy and broke" theme all about?

I qualify anybody who is young to be automatically sexy. Broke means you might still be living off your parents or you're not able to afford luxury cruises and five star hotels. You want to do it and you can, but in a fashion that is very low budget. A lot of the topics are about sex culture and party culture around the world. It's easy to say we're edgy, but we are trying to get their attention and the way we relate is that we are truthful about what's at the top of the list when you're a young traveller.

What kind of information can travellers expect to find in Off Track Planet?

We do tips and advice, best destinations on a budget — not just destinations for budget travellers, but we will talk about going to expensive places on a budget. We write about the sexiest people from different countries, movies you should see before you travel to a country and how to haggle.

What has the response from readers been like?

People love us because we are so honest. We are taking traditional travel writing and turning it upside down in the sense that most writers typically paint a very beautiful picture. We like to be more risky and very upfront and honest because that's what this generation really responds to.

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Miami's other 'wild' side

The Travellin' Canadian finds out there's more to Miami than just the night life and beaches

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

It turns out there's a little more to Miami than all night parties on south beach and endless days of baking in the sun. During my recent whirlwind jaunt to this sun drenched paradise, I found there is a way to slow the pace just long enough to smell the roses, and avoid those 'Sobe' hangovers. One of the surprising highlights of my visit turned out to be one of those tourist-trap style, stereotypical boat tours of Biscayne Bay.

It was just after arriving at the Miami Marina, I experienced one the coolest up close wildlife encounters ever. Now, I've been lucky enough to get up close with some strange creatures over the years, from web-toed platypuses in Australia, to giant Orangutans in Borneo, but even they were no more impressive than what greeted me right here in the wilds of downtown Miami, no less.

There they were ... milling around the docks ... a real live pair of giant, endangered and very blubbery Manatees. These gentle giants were just lazily floating on the surface, surrounded by downtown skyscrapers.

It was a bit strange to see them out of their natural habitat, as tourists flocked around them taking pictures.

My jet boat tour courtesy of Ocean Front adventures turned out to be no less impressive. Dolphins skipped alongside our boat as we passed a strange mix of natural east coast sea life in front of a collection of multimillion dollar mansions.

It was a bit weird to behold all this natural beauty as we roared by the waterfront of palaces of celebrities such as Rosie O'Donnell and Madonna, but hey, that's what Miami is all about.

Back on dry land, I chose gentler Coconut Grove over wild and crazy south beach, and was glad I did. The vibe in the "Grove" is decidedly more mellow and relaxed, with tons of laid back watering holes filled with friendly locals. Of course I needed to soak up those suds with some great food, and the funky Peacock Garden Café was just the ticket.

There's nothing like a great steak under the stars in the middle of winter. At the end of it all I felt as content as those blubbery manatees.

Southern fun

- **Do the South Beach strip:** It's an impressive display of trendy art deco bars and hotels, and tons of crazy partiers dancing on tables and paying high drink prices.
- **Visit the Florida keys:** Rent a car and journey down to stunning Key West. Nothing like digging into a piece of Key Lime pie at the southern most tip of the US.

DARREN PARKMAN/METRO NEWS

▶ Boat tours are a great way to see the more 'natural' side of Miami.

DARREN PARKMAN/METRO NEWS

▶ Manatees in the 'wilds' of Miami.

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The image of dance

Dancer Baryshnikov turns camera on fellow dancers in Miami photography exhibit

WILFREDO LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Mikhail Baryshnikov

The dancer in the photograph isn't frozen in time. Her body is the source of light on a darkened stage, and with a blur of muscle, she's dancing straight at the viewer who has stepped into her moment.

The image is one of roughly two dozen by dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, himself the subject of many photographs, in a solo exhibition of his photography opening Friday at the Gary Nader Art Centre in Miami. In Dance This Way, Baryshnikov turns the camera on ethnic, hip-hop, ballet, modern and popular dances around the world.

The show's title, Baryshnikov says, is meant to be both commanding and descriptive. He wants the dancers to move toward his camera, and he wants to show what he sees in their dances. "I'm interested in focusing on body parts, the movements which really one cannot notice in the audience," says Baryshnikov, 64.

He knows what he's looking for, after all, and he can get a backstage pass anywhere in the world. The Latvian-born dancer who electrified ballet in the Soviet Union before defecting to dance with major ballet companies worldwide is now artistic director of the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York.

"This is one of the foremost dancers in the world, and the show itself is about dance," says gallery owner Gary Nader. "He has what would be some kind of inside information about what's going on onstage more than any other photographer."

Baryshnikov has been taking pictures for most of his adult life, and in the past 10 years he's experimented with digital photography to capture movement. The results are images of figures that are intentionally blurred but still recognizable as dancers in the act of dancing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Next generation of the ultimate comfort food

Put aside granny's traditional meatballs and sauce to try this unique take on pasta The tasty caramelized onions in this dish are slow cooked

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe serves eight.

A common complaint about slow cooker recipes is that too many of them require either too much planning or too much prepping (and sometimes cooking) of ingredients before they go into the cooker. Busy people want recipes that let them dump stuff in, then walk away and forget about it until dinner.

That's where this simple, but over-the-top-good recipe comes in. You let the slow cooker perfectly caramelize a whole mess of onions while you are at work for the day. When you come home, you toss those with a few other ingredients and in the time it takes you to boil pasta, you have dinner.

A food processor is the easiest way to slice this volume of onions. And you also could do that the night before, then bag them and toss them in the refrigerator until the next morning so all you have to do is empty them into the slow cooker.

As for the sun-dried tomatoes and arugula, you can improvise according to your family's tastes.

Any vegetables or cooked meats can be substituted. Sausage even could be added to the slow cooker in the morning.

Preparation:

1 In a large slow cooker, combine onions and olive oil. Stir well to coat, then cover and cook on High for 6 to 8 hours or until well browned and caramelized.

2 In large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta for about 9 minutes or until tender but firm. Drain well and return to pot. Add onions, creme fraiche, arugula and sun-dried tomatoes. Stir over medium heat for about 2 minutes or until arugula just begins to wilt. Season with salt and pepper to taste. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA)

Ingredients:

- 1.5 kg (3 lb) onions, thinly sliced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 500 g (1 lb) fettuccine pasta
- 1 tub (250 g/8 oz) creme fraiche
- 1 container (142 g/5 oz) baby arugula
- 250 ml (1 cup) thinly sliced sun-dried tomatoes
- Salt and ground black pepper

Drink of the week

Orange Pear Refresher

This drink will cool your palate and leave a citrus flavour.

- 3 tbsp (45 mL) fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) simple syrup
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) pear infused vodka
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sparkling orange beverage

Fill tall glass with ice and pour in lemon juice, vodka and simple syrup. Top with orange beverage and serve. Garnish with lemon wedge and fresh mint.

SAN PELLEGRINO ARANCIATA

When your chief has changed

CHELSEA NEWTON
TALENTEGG.CA

You've settled into your role at work when suddenly there's a switch in management Here's how to start over from scratch and succeed

ISTOCK

▶ Your new boss will likely lead your team in a different way as the last. Embrace this new environment.

Many students and recent grads look to their managers to set the tone for their current and future working relationships.

There is comfort in having worked for a manager for a period of time — they know the way you think, they trust in your abilities, and they know the best way to coach you.

So how do you start all over again when you get a new manager?

It's a scary time, but also a great opportunity to grow your skills and be challenged by a new perspective.

It's very important for student and entry-level employees to be open, build credibility, and want the new reporting line to work.

Here are some tips if you have a new manager.

1 **Come in open minded** Your new manager is likely to operate differently than the last, so you should seek to understand their perspective. Don't make snap judgments.

2 **Ask questions** This is tied to not making quick decisions or judgments. Ask questions to seek understanding about changes your new manager is making if they aren't giving you the rationale or background.

3 **Deliver results** Delivering results with a great attitude is the best way to build your personal credibility with a new manager.

4 **Be open and transparent** Open conversation and transparency will work well on both sides to create a strong working relationship right from the get-go. Good luck!

CHELSEA NEWTON IS THE DIRECTOR OF TALENT ACQUISITION AT MOSAIC SALES SOLUTIONS. HER EXPERTISE IS IN HIRING YOUNG ADULTS AND SHE HAS BUILT CAMPUS RECRUITING PROGRAMS IN OVER 12 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, CHINA AND RUSSIA.

ALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES

Talking through the transition

If possible, speak with your current manager about the transition they are completing with your new manager before it takes place.

If you had an open relationship with your previous manager, you can help shape this discussion by highlighting key things that really work in your current relationship.

If your current manager is unable to have a transition with your new manager, take matters into your own hands. Put together a "get to know me" email with your job description, org chart of your team (if applicable), previous performance review, and current targets and goals. Book a meeting with your new manager to get to know each other, walk through your current work load and review your goals.

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Cook up a career in the kitchen

MEREDITH ENGEL
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

At the annual benefit for the Careers through Culinary Arts Program — a nonprofit that works with underprivileged high school students to get them ready careers in the restaurant world — a number of distinguished chefs in attendance gave us their best words of wisdom.

1

"Pick a good restaurant, pick a mentor, work really hard. Start at the bottom. That's just my opinion — and it worked for me and most of the people I know."

MATT HOYLE, NOBU FIFTY SEVEN

ISTOCK

▶ Pursue your passion for cooking with fiery enthusiasm.

2

"Learn your fundamentals. That's why an organization like C-CAP is so important — because these kids are given the fundamentals. From there, you could expand. Your expertise gives you the ability to really blossom."

MICHAEL MCCARTY, MICHAEL'S

3

"Find yourself a job while you're going to school, and work in the environment. Or, before you go to school, get a job in the food industry — even if you have to be a runner — and see what it's all about. It's expensive to go to school, and it's a commitment."

SARABETH LEVINE, SARABETH'S

4

"Just make sure you want to do it, because it's definitely a difficult profession. Ten years ago there wasn't Top Chef and all that — it's out there a lot more, it's more of this glamorous thing. Your first five years, you're gonna be a grunt peeling potatoes and onions — and it's not as glamorous as you see. It's something that you really have to love if you're gonna get into the field."

JOSEPH FORTUNATO, EXTRA VIRGIN

5

"Work hard and be really passionate. I think you should always aspire high and try to do your best. And if you're passionate and you work with a chef or sous chef that really cares about you, it can never be wrong. Today we have such a diverse restaurant scene — it's absolutely an amazing time to be a young, up-and-coming cook. This is the one field that you're always gonna be employed [in]."

MARCUS SAMUELSSON, RED ROOSTER HARLEM

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Fans give Nash warm reception

Rick Nash had difficulty sleeping on Monday night, after it became known that he had asked the Columbus Blue Jackets to trade him.

It was revealed by Blue Jackets general manager Scott Howson on Monday that Nash had asked to be traded. And after spending nine seasons as the face of a losing franchise, Nash was uncertain of the reaction from fans who now might see him as just another opportunist.

But when he was introduced before Tuesday night's game in Columbus against Detroit, fans responded with mostly cheers with a few boos mixed in.

"It was great. I'm honoured. Like I said before, me and these fans have been through a lot," Nash said of the reception. "It honestly meant the world to me to hear that. I didn't know what to expect, but the fans are the classiest.... I'm so impressed by them and so thankful."

Nash rewarded them with a goal, but the Blue Jackets lost 5-2 to the Red Wings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I've been with these fans my whole career. I love them no matter what."
RICK NASH

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Coyotes forward Mikkel Boedker scores the shootout-winning goal Tuesday night on Canucks goalie Cory Schneider in Glendale, Ariz.

Denied in the desert

Canucks offence dries up in Arizona ◐ Coyotes finish February at 11-0-1

Mike Smith stopped 39 shots, Ray Whitney scored in the third period and the shootout, and the Phoenix Coyotes extended their point streak to 12 games with a 2-1 win over the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday night.

Smith allowed a goal on a carom in the first period, but nothing else. He stopped Alexander Edler and Mason Raymond in the shootout to extend his career-best and franchise-record winning streak to 11 games. Whitney scored in the third period to tie it and Mikkel Boedker sealed Phoenix's sixth straight win with a nifty move to beat Cory Schneider in the shootout. The Pacific Division-leading Coyotes have won seven straight at home.

2	1
COYOTES	CANUCKS

Close calls

The Canucks thought they had it won early in overtime on a 3-on-1 rush, but Mike Smith stopped a one-timer on a pass between the Sedin twins.

▶ **Kevin Bieksa** also hit the crossbar late.

Edler scored in the first period and Schneider stopped 34 shots, but allowed goals on two of three shots in the shootout.

The NHL-leading Canucks were one of the busiest teams at Monday's trade deadline, pulling off three deals that they hope will add size and toughness.

The trades with Columbus, Anaheim and Buffalo netted Vancouver four players: Checking-line centre Sammy Pahlsson, rookie forward Zack Kassian, defenceman Marc-Andre Gragnani and forward Andrew Gordon.

Gragnani didn't play, but the rest of the new guys were in the lineup against Phoenix.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Sports in brief

News that hockey great Jean Beliveau was hospitalized following a stroke has prompted an outpouring of affection and get-well wishes for the legendary centreman, beloved as much for his gracious personality as his graceful skating.

Even the prime minister wished Beliveau well.

"Mr. Beliveau is a great Canadian and a remarkable ambassador for our national sport," Stephen Harper said in an emailed statement.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wade to Kobe: Sorry I broke your nose

Insisting he meant no harm, Dwyane Wade revealed Tuesday that he has apologized to Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant multiple times for a blood-drawing, nose-breaking foul during the all-star game.

The first of those apologies, Wade said, came during the game when he saw Bryant's face had been bloodied. Wade also said he sent the Lakers star a message after the game in Orlando on Sunday night.

Wade said critics who questioned why he never offered an apology for the play — the likes of which seemed to be something not typical in an all-star game setting — simply made incorrect assumptions.

"I don't care what I'm portrayed as," Wade said after Miami's first practice following the league's all-star break. "It's unfortunate, obviously. I don't want to ever hurt anybody in this game, especially on a freak play like that. It's unfortunate. I send my apologies. But it's not intentional. If it's something I did intentionally, it'd be a different story."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEAFS LOSE TO PANTHERS

Fans call for Wilson to be fired

Another season is slipping away from the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Mike Santorelli scored twice Tuesday as the Florida Panthers handed the sinking Maple Leafs a 5-3 loss, an all-too-familiar outcome for fans in Toronto.

Loud chants of "Fire Wilson!" — directed at coach Ron Wilson — went up twice during the third period as the Leafs lost for the ninth time in 10 games, including all four on a disheartening homestand. Toronto sits four points out of playoff position in the Eastern Conference but it is showing no signs of pulling out of a tailspin.

Marcel Goc, Jason Garrison and Stephen Weiss also scored for Florida (30-20-12). Jose Theodore added 28 saves.

Phil Kessel, Nikolai Kulemin and Joffrey Lupul replied for the Maple Leafs (29-27-7).
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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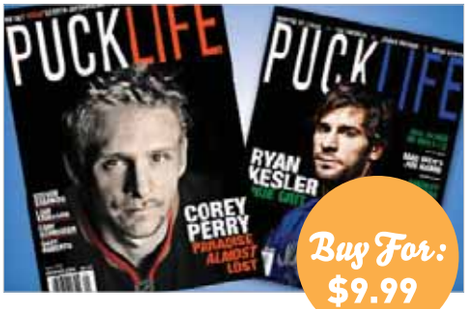

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Motor and battery

The 107-kilowatt (143-horsepower) motor directs its 184 pound-feet of torque to the front wheels for a maximum 134 km/h through a single-speed transmission.

The lithium-ion battery pack is located beneath and behind the rear seat that, due to its bulk, cuts down on the hatchback's available stowage space while adding significant heft.

Cabin

The cabin features considerable advanced technology. There's a special version of the MyFord Touch information system that includes battery-charging state, expected remaining range and how much energy is being consumed by the vehicle's accessories.

There's more. At the end of every trip, the display screen shows total distance driven and the additional distance gained through regenerative braking. Put simply, when you brake, the battery pack is being charged.

Range

To maintain the battery pack at its optimum operating temperature, Ford uses a liquid heating and cooling system to help the car deliver on its 160-kilometre-range claim — maximum range, not average — but that will still require a light touch of the pedal and avoiding excessive use of electrical accessories such as the climate control.

And who knows what kind of range you'll get in a good old-fashioned Canadian winter.

BASE PRICE: $42,700

▶ There's no explanation why the battery pack is in the back and the charge port is at the front, other than it's close to the driver's door and in plain sight.

Focusing on an electric

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Trading fossil-fuel fill-ups for electrical current flowing from a charging station is still a new idea, but Ford is providing a way for you to get in on the ground floor.

Unlike the Chevrolet Volt, Nissan Leaf and Mitsubishi iMiEV that are all proprietary designs, Ford developed the new Focus Electric using the existing Focus platform and body, although a distinctive nose and a charging port door on the driver's-side front fender are dead giveaways as to the car's unique propulsion. And it's that system — moreover, the way it charges — that makes the Focus Electric unique.

Ford claims that a full charge will require three to four hours, or about half the time required by the benchmark Nissan Leaf.

This is due to circuitry designed for higher throughput as opposed to significant differences in battery design. Three hours is a relatively short amount of time that also requires a 240-volt charging station. Otherwise, you can count on a lengthy 18-20 hours from a standard 120-volt outlet using a cord that's included, which is clearly not the way to go for busy or impatient people. A quick calculation puts the cost of driving 100 kilometres at about $2. That's about half of what even the best hybrid can do and there's no tailpipe emissions at all with the Focus Electric.

▶ Batteries are heavy. The Focus Electric weighs about 300 kilograms more than a regular Focus.

▶ The dash's well-woven combination of chunky bits sets the tone for the interior. It's detail that you would be hard pressed to find in a luxury car 10 years ago.

Focus Electric

What you should know about the 2012 Ford Focus Electric:

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact hatchback.
- **Engine (hp):** 107-kilowatt electric (143).
- **Transmission:** Single speed.
- **Market position:** Joins a handful of similarly powered models. Like any niche vehicle, electrics are not for everyone, nor are they intended to be. City dwellers with short runs and easy access to power supplies are best suited.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km equivalent (city/hwy) N/A.

5 drive

By comparison

Nissan Leaf
Base price: $40,400
Roomy hatchback gets high marks for functionality, if not for elegance.

Chevrolet Volt
Base price: $43,000
Backup gasoline generator makes this electric the most practical.

Mitsubishi iMiEV
Base price: $34,700
Small, good range, OK top speed and the cheapest big-name electric.

WHEELBASE MEDIA

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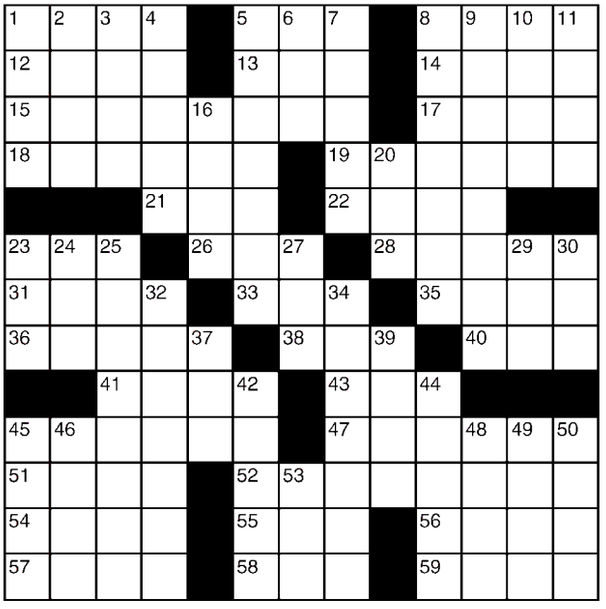
Crossword



Across

1 Syringe, for short
5 TiVo, for example
8 iPhone downloads
12 Really long time
13 Midafternoon, on a sundial
14 Crooner Jerry
15 Firm adherent to a cause
17 Ontario neighbor
18 Scabbard
19 Stocking holder
21 Apiece
22 Kill
23 Swiss mountain
26 Treasure seeker's aid
28 Spry
31 Water vessel
33 "Golly!"
35 Oklahoma city
36 Hannah Montana portrayer Miley
38 Pismire
40 Bygone Pontiac muscle car
41 Walked (on)
43 Stomach
45 Actress Headly
47 Frightened
51 Continental coin
52 Bit
54 Have coming
55 Peculiar
56 Reedy
57 Seeks restitution
58 Pirouette pivot
59 Spud's buds

Down

1 Chance occurrences
2 "Why not?"
3 Sweat outlet
4 Available
5 Symbol of limpness
6 By way of
7 "Lord of the —"
8 Par
9 Whooping it up
10 Ballet bend
11 Prognosticator
16 Detail
20 Chicken — king
23 "The View" network
24 Myrna of Hollywood
25 Path-filled garden
27 Shooter ammo
29 Torched
30 Tokyo's old name
32 Strong likes
34 Fencing call
37 Bart, to Homer
39 Clump of grass
42 Station
44 Hackneyed
45 The Bee —
46 Hawaiian feast
48 Needing liniment
49 Nastase of tennis lore
50 Lairs
53 Fuss

▶ Yeterday's answer

W	A	L	L	■	V	E	G	■	C	L	A	P		
A	L	I	A	■	I	D	A	■	A	I	D	E		
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	S	■	M	E	A	N		
E	R	E	■	M	E	N	■	S	P	U	R	N		
■	■	■	Q	U	O	■	D	E	F	■	■	■		
B	O	G	U	S	■	P	R	A	I	S	E	D		
A	R	I	A	■	J	O	Y	■	R	O	M	E		
T	A	N	G	L	E	D	■	B	E	L	O	W		
■	■	■	M	A	T	■	H	R	S	■	■	■		
R	E	M	I	X	■	D	U	O	■	E	M	U		
H	A	I	R	■	H	O	T	W	I	R	E	S		
E	S	N	E	■	A	R	C	■	V	I	S	E		
A	Y	E	S	■	M	A	H	■	Y	E	A	R		

Sudoku

5			3		2			9
4	7	1				3	2	8
		2	9		3	7		
3								2
		9	4		5	6		
9	2	6				8	7	4
1			8		7			5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	8	7	2	3	6	4	1	5
4	1	3	7	8	5	9	6	2
2	6	5	9	1	4	8	3	7
1	3	2	4	5	7	6	9	8
6	7	4	3	9	8	2	5	1
8	5	9	6	2	1	7	4	3
7	9	8	5	4	3	1	2	6
3	4	6	1	7	2	5	8	9
5	2	1	8	6	9	3	7	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

my everlasting love, prince charming, My sweet darling, Ti amo, Je t'aime, Wo Ai Ni, I love you always, forever and ever. Mi Manchi every day and every night! Sweetheart, take good care of yourself, just a kiss on yr sweet lips my love, you are my everything, you are my destiny... See you always in my dreams tonite and every nite... **YOUR ETERNAL LOVE, STRONG N FAITHFUL PRINCESS**

boy at the salad bar
Hey you! That's right. I don't even know your name but i've been admiring you from a far :(I work in the store across from yours , so please look over sometime and just say hi ! :) **GIRL NEXT DOOR**

Honeypot
To my brand new husband, I love you and I am so happy to be on this wonderful journey with you. Thank you for everything.
HONEY BALL

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Today's good news will make you feel a lot better about your financial situation. Always be positive.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
What happens today will inspire you to give a project you have been on the verge of ending another go. It can be made to work.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
What you see or hear today will remind you that compared to other people, you are quite lucky.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Do you believe in yourself? The only thing that is holding you back, Cancer, is the idiotic idea that you are not good enough. You are.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
There's no point trying to predict how people are going to act because they are on a completely different wavelength to you.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
You seem very positive in your outlook at the moment, which is good, but you still need to back it up with hard work.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Good news regarding your money situation will cheer you up, but it's only a short-term development.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Listen to what friends have to tell you today, even if it isn't what you were hoping to hear.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Do something out of the ordinary today, something even your friends think is outrageous.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You will see something that everyone else has missed. Act quickly and turn it to your advantage.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
News from afar may not exactly delight you but neither is it the end of the world. Keep things in perspective and look for ways to benefit.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Someone you meet on your travels could become the most important person in your life over the next few months. SALLY BROMPTON

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DAVID SMITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MICHAEL CONROY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OWN IT **$124**† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **0.9%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | PAY **$0**ø FOR UP TO **90** DAYS | WITH **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

TUCSON L 5-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

HIGHWAY **7.4**L/100 KM **38** MPG▼

2012 TUCSON

Stylish cross-over utility vehicle

Limited model shown

OWN IT **$142**† BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | PAY **$0**ø FOR UP TO **90** DAYS | WITH **$0** DOWN PAYMENT

SANTA FE GL 2.4 6-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

HIGHWAY **7.7**L/100 KM **37** MPG▼

2012 SANTA FE

Powerful & efficient – the true definition of a cross-over

Limited model shown

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY*

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HyundaiCanada.com

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855 Automall Dr.
North Vancouver, 604-985-0055
D#6700

Murray Hyundai White Rock
3150 King George Highway
Surrey, 604-538-7022
D#30780

OpenRoad Hyundai
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Richmond, 604-606-9033
D#28516

Maple Ridge Hyundai
23213 Lougheed Highway
Maple Ridge, 604-467-3401
D#7356

Jim Pattison Hyundai Port Coquitlam
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Port Coquitlam, 604-552-1700
D#30242

Abbotsford Hyundai
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Abbotsford, 604-857-2622
D#9390

Langley Hyundai
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Surrey, 604-539-8549
D#30331

Mertin Hyundai
45753 Yale Rd.
Chilliwack, 604-702-1000
D#30337

Jim Pattison Hyundai Surrey
15365 Guildford Drive
North Surrey, 604-582-8118
D#10977

Destination Hyundai
445 Kingsway
Vancouver, 604-292-8188
D#31042

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